

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1. A system for allowing participants of a product community to interact with  
2 product definition data pertinent to at least a portion of a lifecycle of the product, the  
3 system comprising:

4           a community server accessible via a network by the participants of the product  
5 community and which uses the product definition data;

6           plural application suites executed by the community server for permitting  
7 interaction with the product definition data by corresponding plural differing types of  
8 participants.

1           2. The system of claim 1, wherein the interaction includes plural ones of the  
2 following:

- 3           (1)   viewing the product definition data;
- 4           (2)   revising the product definition data;
- 5           (3)   routing the product definition data;
- 6           (4)   notifying other participants of modification of the product definition data.

1           3. The system of claim 1, wherein the plural differing types of participants  
2 include a component supplier for the product; a designer for the product; a customer for  
3 the product; a marketer for the product.

1           4. The system of claim 1, wherein the lifecycle includes product design, product  
2 production, product delivery/distribution, product marketing and sales, and product  
3 support.

4  
5           5. The system of claim 1, wherein the product definition data includes data for  
6 providing a three dimensional display of at least a portion of the product.

1           6. The system of claim 1, wherein the plural application suites include at least  
2 one of the following:

- 3           (1)   a supplier participation suite through which a component supplier for the  
4 product interacts with the product design data;
- 5           (2)   a customer participation suite through which a customer of the product  
6 interacts with the product design data;

- 7 (3) an engineering participation suite through which a designer of the product  
8 interacts with the product definition data.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the plural application suites include a supplier  
2 participation suite through which a component supplier for the product performs at least  
3 one of the following:

- 4 responds to a request for a quote for a component of the product;  
5 tracks a job to determine progress/stage of an implementation or change process.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the plural application suites include a  
2 customer participation suite through which a customer supplier for the product performs  
3 at least one of the following:

- 4 views a three dimensional image of the product;  
5 provides feedback comment regarding the product.

1 9. A network-based product development community system comprising:  
2 a network node for storing product definition data pertinent to at least a portion  
3 of a lifecycle of the product;

4 a network node for each of plural participants of the product development  
5 community through which the respective participants interact with the product  
6 definition data;

7 a community server situated at a node of the network which, when a change  
8 affecting the product definition data occurs as a result of interaction by a first  
9 participant, notifies others of the plural participants of the change.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the network is an enterprise network and the  
2 nodes are nodes of the enterprise network.

1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the network is the Internet and the nodes are  
2 nodes of the Internet.